

Appl. No. 10/035,726
Atty. Docket No. 8773
Amdt. dated 09/24/2003
Reply to Office Action of July 3, 2003
Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A die for extruding flowable material therethrough in a longitudinal direction, said die having ~~a first die inlet and a second die inlet~~ at least a first die inlet, a second die inlet, and a third die inlet, each for admitting flowable material into said die and having a first die inlet size, a second die inlet size and a third die inlet size, respectively, said die further comprising a die outlet for expelling ~~[[said]]~~ flowable material from said die, said die having a cavity longitudinally connecting said first die inlet and said die outlet, ~~said first die inlet and said second die inlet~~ first die inlet, said second die inlet and said third die inlet each having a spacing being spaced apart from each other, said first, second and third inlets having a difference in at least one of: said die inlet size, said spacing from an adjacent die inlet and being arranged in a plurality of banks, whereby at least two banks of said plurality have a mutually different number of die inlets.
2. (Original) A die according to claim 1 wherein said second die inlet is longitudinally downstream of said first die inlet.
3. (Original) A die according to claim 2 comprising a plurality of auxiliary inlets, said plurality of auxiliary inlets being longitudinally downstream of a first die inlet having a first die inlet cross sectional area, said auxiliary inlets having a combined cross-sectional area less than said first die inlet cross sectional area.
4. (Currently amended) A die according to claim 3 wherein said plurality of said auxiliary inlets is ~~rectilinearly~~ rectilinearly disposed in a bank, said bank being substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal direction.
5. (Currently amended) A die according to claim ~~[[3]]~~ 4 wherein said auxiliary inlets are unequally spaced from each other.

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6. (Original) A die according to claim 1 further comprising a first bank of auxiliary inlets and at least a second bank of auxiliary inlets, said first bank of auxiliary inlets and said second bank of auxiliary inlets being longitudinally spaced apart from each other.
7. (Original) A die according to claim 6 wherein said first plurality of auxiliary inlets comprises a first number of auxiliary inlets and said second plurality of auxiliary inlets comprises a second number of auxiliary inlets, said first number of auxiliary inlets being different than said second number of auxiliary inlets.
8. (Original) A die according to claim 6 wherein said first plurality of auxiliary inlets comprises auxiliary inlets having a first size and said second plurality of auxiliary inlets comprises auxiliary inlets having a second size, said first size of said first plurality of auxiliary inlets being different than said second size of said second plurality of auxiliary inlets.
9. (Original) A die according to claim 3 further comprising a static mixer disposed in said die cavity.
10. (Currently amended) A die for extruding flowable material therethrough in a longitudinal direction, ~~said die having a first die inlet and at least one auxiliary inlet to said die at least one auxiliary inlet admitting flowable material into said die,~~ said die further comprising a die outlet for expelling said flowable material from said die, said die having a cavity longitudinally connecting said first die inlet and said die outlet, said first die inlet and said second die inlet being spaced apart from each other, and an insert tube extending from said auxiliary inlet to said die cavity, said insert tube admitting material, energy or both to said die cavity said insert tube admitting energy to said die cavity, without admitting additional material to said die cavity.
11. (Original) A die according to claim 10 comprising a plurality of insert tubes, each said insert tube having a distal end, said distal ends of said insert tubes being staggered in said longitudinal direction.

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12. (Original) A die according to claim 10 having a cross direction orthogonal to said longitudinal direction and a plurality of insert tubes, each said insert tube having a distal end, said distal ends of said insert tubes being staggered in said cross direction.
13. (Original) A die according to claim 10 wherein said insert tube has a window, said window being substantially transparent to the transmission of energy therethrough.
14. (Currently amended) A die according to claim 13 wherein substantially said entire insert tube ~~[[40]]~~ is substantially transparent to the transmission of energy therethrough.
15. (Original) A die according to claim 12 further comprising a static mixer disposed in said die cavity and directing flow of material in said cavity of said die in at least said cross direction.
16. (Currently amended) A die according to claim 15 wherein said static mixer comprises a plurality of bars, each said bar comprising an insert tube~~[[s]]~~ for admitting energy, material or both to said cavity of said die.
17. (Original) A die according to claim 16 wherein said bar admits actinic radiation to said cavity of said die.